

F-3-95

Rocky Springs School House  
Frederick vicinity  
Private

1839

The Rocky Springs School House is a one-story stone school built about 1839 with a stone foyer added about 1850 and a concrete block addition of about 1930. The stone is painted white and the cupola with bell, which were in place until late 1991, have been removed. The unusual foyer is a "half gable" extension of the ridge with a shed roof. The 1835 date stone in the foyer may be incorrect as land records indicate that the land was acquired by the school district trustees in 1839. The interior of the school retains its late 19th century tongue-and-groove wainscot and ceiling and blackboards between the windows. The school was closed about 1930 and acquired by the Rocky Springs Chapel for use as a community center. It is a good, well-preserved example of the early 19th century stone school house, and one of the few to retain interior features of its original use.

F-3-95  
Rocky Springs School House  
Frederick  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Agricultural - Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning  
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Education/school/schoolhouse

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rocky Springs School House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 7800 block Rocky Springs Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Frederick ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: community center

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

Trustees of Rocky Springs Chapel  
name c/o Mrs. Grace Koehl

street &amp; number 7814 Rocky Springs Road telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code Md. 21701

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 724

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 151

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-3-95

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Rocky Springs School House is a one-story, white-painted fieldstone school with a one-room plan built about 1835-1839 with a stone foyer added at a later date in the 19th century and a concrete block kitchen addition on the rear elevation erected after 1930 when the building was converted to use as a church hall and community center. The school house is located on the northeast side of Rocky Springs Road about 50 yards northwest of the intersection of Kemp Lane, near Frederick (City), Frederick County, Maryland. The building is located about 25 feet from the edge of the road and its principal elevation with the projecting foyer faces southwest toward the street. An inscribed stone in the foyer gable reads "Built 1835"; however, land records indicate that the date may have been 1839.

The building is generally rectangular in form with a gable roof covered with composition material over wood shingles. The stone walls are topped by a corbeled brick cornice. The southwest gable end originally had two bays and the east and west elevations each have two bays. The windows are 6/6 with plain lintels and sills. An open cupola with a bell was located over the southwestern gable. It was removed in 1991 because of deterioration and the bell is stored by Mrs. Grace Koehl, a local resident and advocate of the preservation of the Rocky Springs School. At a date yet undetermined, but probably prior to 1850, an entrance foyer and cloakroom with a shed roof was added to the southwest elevation, with the original ridgeline extended and the foyer built at the same height with a shed roof on the east side. The doorway was placed near the corner of the foyer facing east. The present door is a vertical tongue-and-groove type, undoubtedly a late 19th or early 20th century replacement of the original vertical board door. The western bay of the original section with its 6/6 window remained as built. On the east and south sides of the foyer are 2/2 windows. A possible theory on the date discrepancy is that the 1835 date was thought to be correct at the time the foyer was added and was unverified by deed research. The 2/2 sash indicates the foyer is a later addition as this type of fenestration was more common than the early 19th century 6/6 sash in the period of about 1850-1900. When the school was closed and sold to the Rocky Springs Chapel in about 1930, a rusticated concrete block addition was added to the northeast or rear elevation. The gable of the school above this addition is covered with german siding which may have been added at the same time. An interior end chimney is located on the north gable end. The addition has a entrance on the southeast side with double doors with arched molding panels. On the north side of the addition are two windows of horizontally sliding 6/6 sash.

The interior was not accessible, but can be observed from the windows. The walls have a tongue-and-groove wainscot below plaster walls with blackboards placed between the window openings. A single center pier rising through the tongue-and-groove ceiling supports the roof ridge, placed in recent years following a fire in the original chimney stack which was located at this point. The current heating unit is near the north end of the room. The floor is random pine boards.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-95

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1839-1930

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Rocky Springs School House is a well-preserved example of an early 19th century rural school in Frederick County. Land records indicate that in April 1839, John Staley sold 150 square perches of the "Foxe's Spy" tract to the school trustees of District No. 26 for \$5 "for a school house to be built . . . to be called 'Rocky Springs School House'". The date 1835 in the foyer gable of the school house may be an error of the mid-19th century based on personal recollection unconfirmed by documentation. At either date, very few of the surviving schools of any historic period which have been converted to other uses retain as much integrity in form, materials, and plan. Only one other converted school building yet surveyed in the County is known to have blackboards, the Hope Hill Colored School (F-7-37) in the Urbana vicinity. The interiors of most of the schools identified in this survey have not been documented and many have yet to be identified. Other schools of any period with high interior and exterior integrity are rare. Two other known stone schools of the 1830's period are the Bethel School (F-3-94), built prior to 1838, and the Mountain View School (F-8-113), built about 1840. Both of these schools have exterior additions of later date and, like the Rocky Springs School, were used for church services for varying periods of time. Further documentation of their interiors will clarify the significance of the Rocky Springs School.

Prior to the erection of the Rocky Springs Chapel (F-3-96) immediately northwest of the school house in 1882, the United Brethren congregation which originated at the nearby house of Peter Kemp held services at the school from about 1860.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-3-95

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted  
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, 453.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acreQuadrangle name Frederick, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

Zone			Easting			Northing			

B 

Zone			Easting			Northing			

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 1 acre centered on the stone school house and the frame church on  
Tax Map 56, Parcel 450.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date October 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

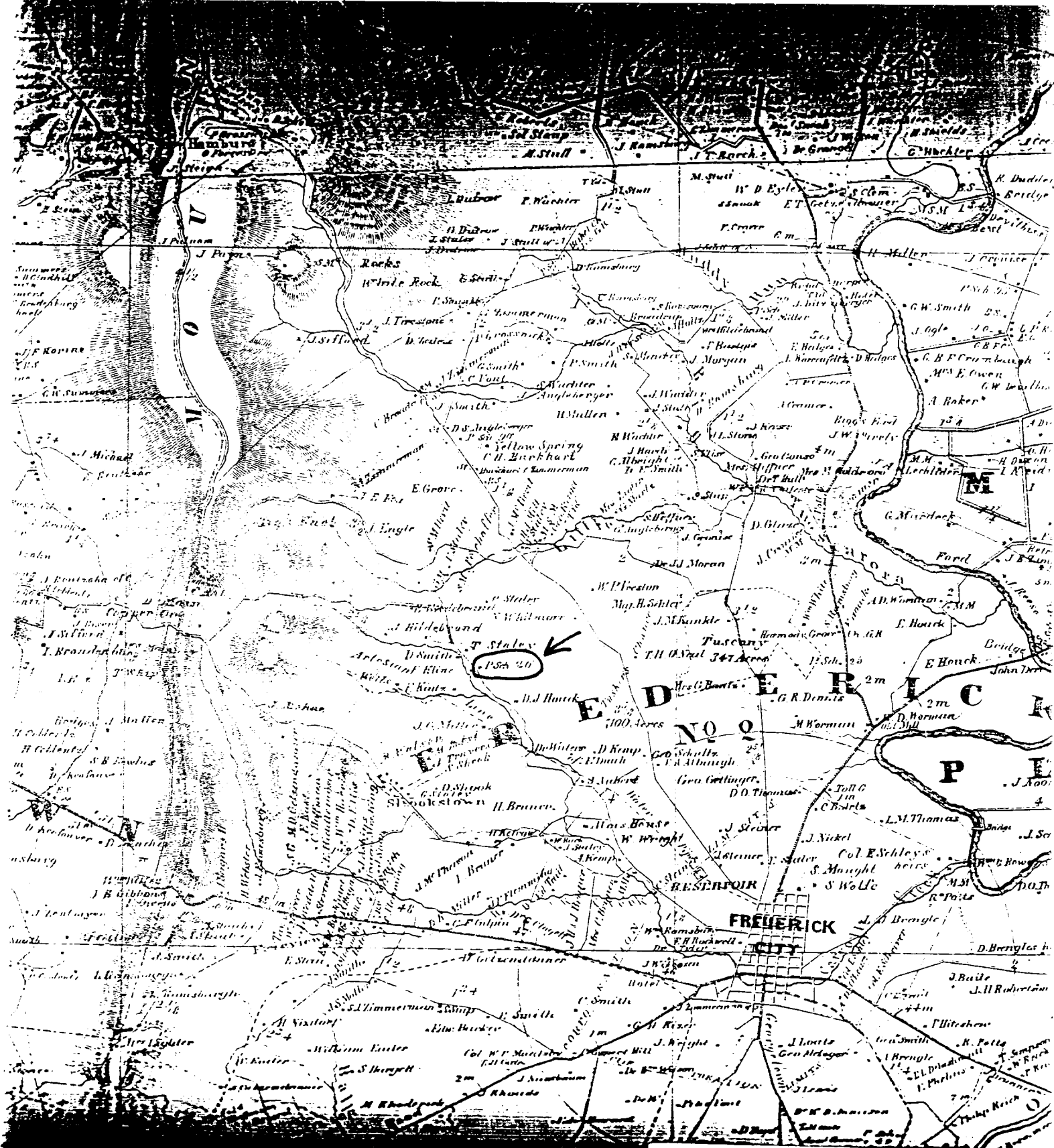
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by  
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated  
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and  
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of  
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MDA 1-11-93  
CHC/JOHON  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
814-7400

[illegible]



F-3-95

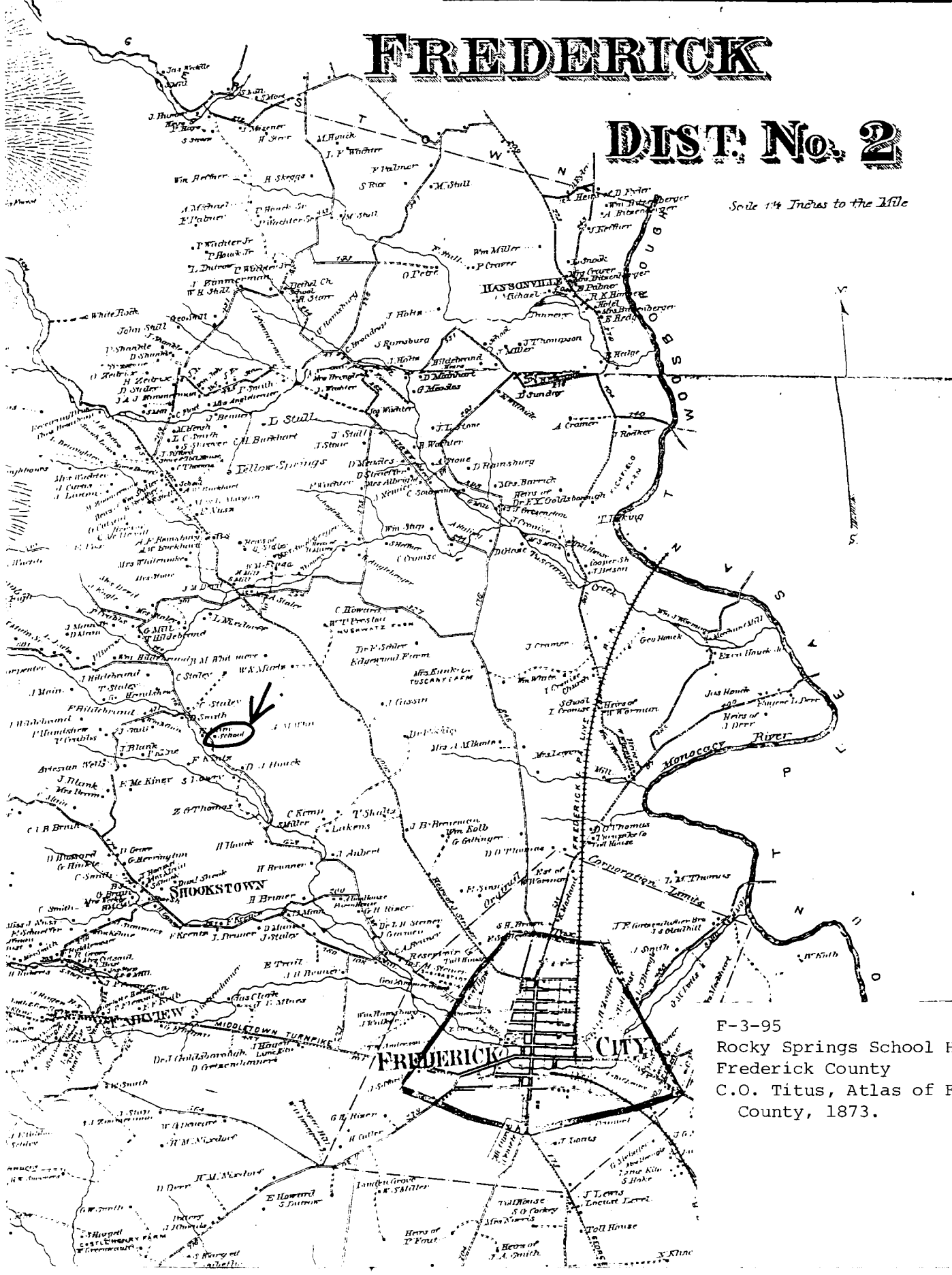
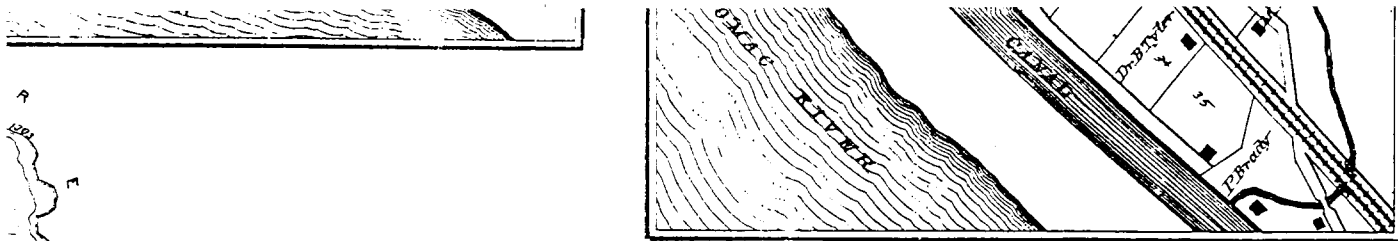
Rocky Springs School House  
Frederick County  
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
County, 1858.



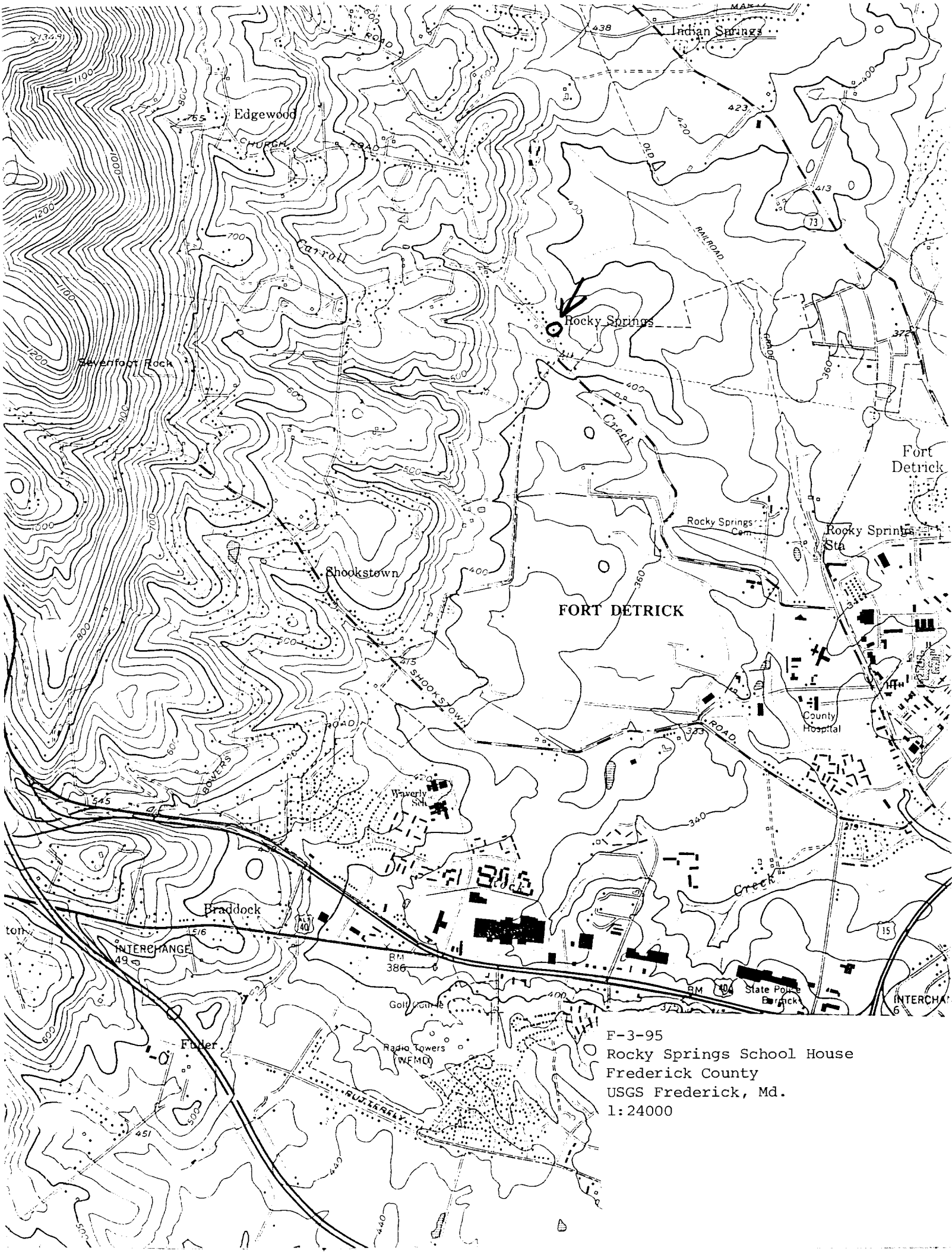
# FREDERICK

## DIST. No. 2

Scale 1 1/4 Inches to the Mile



F-3-95  
Rocky Springs School House  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873.



F-3-95  
○ Rocky Springs School House  
Frederick County  
USGS Frederick, Md.  
1:24000



F. 3-95

Rocky Springs School

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

South elevation

1/3



F-3-95

Rocky Springs School

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Southeast corner view

2/3



F-3-95

Rocky Springs School  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville Md.

North elevation

3/3